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WAREHAM AND PURBECK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1954

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health	E. J. O'Keeffe, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Senior Sanitary Inspector	E. D. Grant, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B. Meat & Food Cert.
Additional Sanitary Inspector	F. A. White, M.S.I.A. Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health	Miss H. L. Haysom.

Office accommodation and clerical assistance for the Medical Officer of Health who is also Medical Officer for Wareham Borough and Swanage Urban District, and Assistant County Medical Officer, Dorset, is provided jointly by the Authorities concerned.

PREFACE

Public Health Office,
12a Institute Road,
Swanage.

To the Chairman and Members of the Wareham and Purbeck
Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Madeline, Lady Lees and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District for the Year 1954.

The Report is set out in sections in the following order:-

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The health of the district, generally speaking, remained satisfactory during the year and there was no undue incidence of infectious disease. There were no cases of acute poliomyelitis in the district, and no deaths from the common infectious diseases of childhood.

The vital statistics for the district compare very favourably with those for England and Wales. The total live births was 28 less and the deaths one less than those registered in 1953.

It is a pleasure to report the excellent progress of the Council's house building programme, and the increasing number of houses being reconditioned with the aid of Improvement grants. The position may soon be reached in which houses requiring demolition as a result of the housing survey may be dealt with more rapidly.

The Council's Comprehensive water scheme has, although still subject to delays beyond the Council's control, reached the stage where a start can be expected to be made at a foreseeable date.

The need for sewerage schemes for the main villages, which is already apparent, will become more urgent as the water scheme develops. It is expected that a start will be made on two of the most needed schemes, the BriantsPuddle and Upton area schemes, in the not too distant future.

I wish to thank the Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration, and the Sanitary Inspectors and other Officers of the Council for their help and co-operation, throughout the year. In addition I would like to thank Mr. Grant for his help in preparing this report.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

Medical Officer of Health

June, 1955.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

General Statistics

1. Area of the Rural District ... ... 95,954 acres

2. Population

   At Census 1951 19,307

   As estimated by Registrar General
   home population - mid 1953 ... 19,310
   - mid 1954 ... 20,030

3. Total number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book -
   At end of 1953 ... 5,351
   At end of 1954 ... 5,315

4. Rateable value at 1st. April, 1954 ... ... £103,629

5. Sum represented by Penny Rate ... ... £411.8.7d.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1954

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births			
Total registered	309	159	150
Legitimate	298	153	145
Illegitimate	11	6	5
Still Births			
Total registered	6	3	3
Legitimate	5	2	3
Illegitimate	1	1	-
Deaths			
Total registered	171	85	86
Infant Mortality			
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age			
Total registered	6	5	1
Legitimate	6	5	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age			
Total registered	5	4	1
Legitimate	5	4	1
Illegitmate	-	-	-

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES - 1954

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Home Population 15.4

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Home Population 8.1

Area Comparability Factors

Births 1.11 Deaths 1.10

	Wareham & Purbeck	England & Wales
Live Birth Rate(Standardised) per 1,000 Home Population	17.1	15.2
Still Birth Rate(Standardised) per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)	19.0	24.0
Death Rate(Standardised) per 1,000 Home Population	8.9	11.3
Infant Mortality Rates per 1,000 Live Births		
All causes under 1 year of age	19.4	25.5
Enteritis and diarrhoea (under 2 years)	3.2	0.8

CAUSES OF DEATH - YEAR 1954

(Supplied by the Registrar General)

	Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1	1
2	Tuberculosis, other	-	1	1
3	Syphilitic disease	-	1	1
4	Diphtheria	-	-	-
5	Whooping cough	-	-	-
6	Meningococcal infections	-	1	1
7	Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8	Measles	-	-	-
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	-	-	-
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	2	6
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	4	-	4
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4	4
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	16	5	21
15	Leukemia, aleukemia	-	-	-
16	Diabetes	-	-	-
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	13	18	31
18	Coronary disease, angina	7	9	16
19	Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	1	2
20	Other heart diseases	9	19	28
21	Other circulatory diseases	3	3	6
22	Influenza	3	1	4
23	Pneumonia	3	3	6
24	Bronchitis	8	-	8
25	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	1	3
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	1	2
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	-	1	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	6	6
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	-	1	1
31	Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	5	5	10
33	Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
34	All other accidents	3	-	3
35	Suicide	-	-	-
36	Homicide and operations of war ...	-	-	-
	Total	85	86	171

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The laying of the distribution mains for the Winfrith supply was completed during the year. This scheme serves the village of Winfrith and properties in East Knighton and Blacknoll, the source being a borehole originally sunk to supply the new Winfrith Council houses.

No new sources of supply were brought into use apart from the work on the Winfrith scheme; there were no extensions of existing supplies.

Only those parts of the district which are served by Public Water Undertakings can be regarded as having a water supply which is satisfactory both in quantity and quality. In nearly all parts of the remainder of the district there is some degree of water shortage during summer months, and in dry periods there is acute shortage especially in the Valley Road - Harmans Cross area and the Glebe Estate, Studland, which rely mainly on rain water supplies, and the Wool village where many of the newer houses rely on shallow wells.

The smaller village supplies are variable in quantity and quality and are not wholly satisfactory. The majority of the old wells in the district are poorly constructed and yield water of doubtful quality. Approximately 43% of the samples taken from wells in the district during the year were classed as unsatisfactory, 4% as suspicious and 53% as satisfactory.

Statutory Areas of Supply of Water Undertakings Within the District

Poole Corporation Supply: The parishes of Lytchett Minster and Lytchett Matravers, so much of the parish of Morden as lies to the north of an imaginary straight line commencing at the most westerly extremity of the parish of Lytchett Matravers, and running in a direction west by north and terminating at the southernmost extremity of the parish of Sturminster Marshall, and so much of the parish of Wareham St.Martin as lies to the east of an imaginary line drawn parallel to and 200 yards to the west of the main road from Blandford to Wareham.

Swanage Urban District Council's Supply: The parish of Langton Matravers and the village of Corfe Castle.

Lulworth Castle Estate Supply: The parish of West Lulworth.

Proposed New Water Supplies

Main Comprehensive Scheme:

This scheme is for the supply of water from the Council's borehole at Briantspuddle, which was acquired in 1952, to all parts of the district not already served by a piped supply from a public water undertaking.

A public Inquiry was held on 5th. January 1954, at the Council's Office, Westport House, by A Gerard Boulton Esq., M.A., A.M.I.C.E. the Inspector appointed by the Minister to consider the Council's proposals. On the 1st. December, 1954, the Minister of Housing and Local Government intimated to the Council that the Comprehensive Scheme had been included provisionally in the programme of grant aided work for 1956/57. Consent was given to proceed with part of the scheme which would enable a supply to be afforded to Bere Regis, contract documents were being prepared at the end of the year and it is hoped work may commence in 1955.

Temporary Village District Schemes

These are schemes for the supply of water from local sources until water becomes available from the main Briantspuddle source, and are planned so that the greater part of the installation and distributing mains can be used when the main comprehensive scheme is developed. Schemes have already been completed for supplying Church Knowle, Bloxworth and Morden, Winfrith, Stoborough and Ridge.

Acton:(Langton Matravers). A scheme was submitted in December for supplying Acton, water being taken in bulk from Swanage Urban District Council's supply.

Studland: This scheme is still in abeyance.

Public Piped Supplies

The following areas in the district have public piped supplies:-

Affpuddle, Turners Puddle and a part of Bere Regis from the Briants Puddle source acquired by the Rural District Council. The water is derived from a deep bore in the chalk at Briants Puddle and is untreated. Samples taken for bacteriological examination have proved satisfactory.

Bestwall area and a few houses at Worgret, from the Wareham Borough Council's supply.

Church Knowle, Bloxworth and Morden, and Winfrith are each supplied from local sources by the Rural District Council

Corfe Castle and Langton Matravers from the Swanage Urban District Council's supply.

Stoborough and Ridge are supplied by the Rural District Council with water purchased in bulk from the Wareham Borough Council.

Upton, Lytchett Minster, Organford and Sandford, from Poole Corporation supply.

West Lulworth, East Lulworth and Coombe Keynes, from the Lulworth Castle Estate supply.

These supplies have been satisfactory throughout the year both with regard to quantity and quality.

Village Piped Supplies Privately Owned

Chaldon Herring has a standpipe supply from Lulworth Castle Estate, and the water bacteriologically is highly satisfactory.

Kingston, Kimmeridge and Wool village have small piped gravity supplies from surface springs. The water, with the exception of the Kingston supply which is now chlorinated, is untreated and the results of bacteriological examination of samples taken from these small supplies are variable.

Studland village supply is derived from surface water collected on neighbouring heathland areas. The water is sand filtered and give consistent highly satisfactory results. The quantity of water available is very limited and shortage is experienced during summer months.

Number of Houses and Population in each Parish having a piped supply

(i) Water supplied from Statutory Water Undertakings:

Parish	Population	Total No. of Houses	Name of Supply	Direct to Houses		By means of Standpipe	
				No. of Houses	Population	No. of Houses	Population
Affpuddle	412	117	W.& P.R.D.C.	49	166	46	154
Arne	842	286	"	185	510	-	-
Bere Regis	1192	357	"	78	255	-	-
Bloxworth	204	73	"	67	190	-	-
Church Knowle	418	130	"	95	317	-	-
Corfe Castle	1696	482	Swanage U.D.C.	262	903	46	151
Langton Matravers	1178	352	"	146	528	130	410
Lytchett "	1053	356	Boro. of Poole	124	458	-	-
Lytchett Minster	2209	746	"	598	1340	15	48
Wareham St.Martin	1251	405	"	386	1098	-	-
West Lulworth	778	210	Lulworth Estate	129	470	70	256
Wool	2043	576	Bov. Camp W.D.	148	451	18	63
Morden	492	157	W.& P. R.D.C.	124	458	-	-
Winfrith	678	201	"	131	484	-	-
(ii) Water supplied by Private Estate - Village Supplies:							
Chaldon Herring	197	71	Lulworth Estate	11	29	25	80
Coombe Keynes	106	36	"	15	40	17	47
Corfe Castle	1696	482	Encombe Estate	32	113		
			Bankes Estate	10	35		
East Holme	59	17	Private Supply	8	21		
East Lulworth	275	84	Lulworth Estate	34	109	40	127
East Stoke	349	116	Private Supplies	12	40		
Kimmeridge	85	28	"	6	19	22	66
Lytchett Matravers	2209	356	"	11	36		
Moreton	323	87	"	8	25		
Steeple	168	69	"	8	23	4	11
Studland	634	208	Bankes Estate	122	360	37	116
Tonerspuddle	53	24	Private	10	27	5	14
Wool	2043	576	Private supplies	98	227	-	-
Worth Matravers	557	196	"	11	31	-	-

Bacteriological Examinations of water supplies:

Water Undertaking	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory
(1) Public Supplies				
Poole Corporation	1	1	-	-
Lulworth Estate	1	1	-	-
Wareham & Purbeck R.D.C.				
Briantspuddle	6	6	-	-
Church Knowle	6	6	-	-
Stoborough	4	4	-	-
Bloxworth	4	4	-	-
Morden	1	1	-	-
Winfrith	21	19	-	2
(2) Village Piped Supplies privately owned:				
East Stoke	4	4	-	-
Studland	1	1	-	-
Kingston	2	1	-	1
Wool	9	8	-	1
(3) Individual Wells and Supplies:				
Lytchett Matravers	13	6	1	6
Langton Matravers	3	3	-	-
Bere Regis	5	1	1	3
Wool	12	5	-	7
Church Knowle	2	1	-	1
Moreton	3	3	-	-
East and West Holme	1	-	-	1
East Stoke	5	4	-	1
Kimmeridge	1	-	-	1
Stoborough	2	2	-	-
Arne	6	3	-	3

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

There are main sewerage systems in the villages of Langton Matravers and West Lulworth, and in the Sandford and Bestwall areas of the parish of Wareham St. Martin. Particulars of these sewerage systems are given on page 8.

No major works of sewerage or sewage disposal were carried out in the district during the year. The sewer at Bestwall was extended approximately 650 ft. to receive drainage from new properties being erected in the area.

The need for main sewerage in principal villages in the district is appreciated by the Council, and it is their intention that schemes which are at present in abeyance for Corfe Castle and Wool should be carried out when circumstances permit. The Council is already committed, in addition to their Comprehensive Water Supply scheme for the district, to the carrying out of sewerage schemes for the Upton area of Lytchett Minster and for the village of Briants Puddle.

Cesspool Emptying

The Council's cesspool emptying service is available for all parts of the district at a charge of 15s.0d. per cesspool emptied. The one cesspool emptying vehicle maintained by the Council has to work overtime to deal with the increasing demand for this service. Difficulties have been experienced in finding convenient sites for disposal of sewage and sludge.

Proposed Sewerage Schemes

Briants Puddle: This village is to be sewered as work necessary for the protection against pollution of the Council's source of water supply for the Comprehensive scheme. The Council agreed to proceed with this scheme forthwith and it was hoped to have tenders for carrying out the work by early 1955.

Upton: After experiencing further delay in a joint scheme with Poole Corporation the Council decided to proceed with independent works off Sandy Lane. A scheme was submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

Sandford: It is proposed that the existing system should be extended to an area east of Gore Hill. Detailed plans are to be prepared when the developers have submitted final particulars of the layout of the proposed estate.

Corfe Castle: This scheme which was the subject of a Ministry of Health Inquiry in 1947, is in abeyance for the time being.

Wool: Plans for the sewering of this village were completed several years ago, but protracted negotiations with the War Department for the purchasing of the existing disposal works at Bovington broke down in 1951, since then the scheme has been in abeyance.

Public Conveniences

Corfe Castle: The Rural District Council provided a public convenience in 1951, to meet the need of tourists visiting this village.

Lulworth Cove: Conveniences are provided at Lulworth Cove by the Owner of the beach to meet the need of holiday makers.

Studland: Conveniences are provided at both ends of the beach by the owner to meet the needs of holiday makers. To serve the village area which is some distance from the beach the old telephone exchange building is to be converted into public conveniences. The project has been delayed because of difficulties in purchasing the site.

Number of Houses Connected to Public Sewers and Number of Cesspools Abolished during the Year.

Parish	No. of Connections to Sewers	No. of Cesspools abolished
Langton Matravers	9	2
Wareham St. Martin		
(a) Sandford	7	1
(b) Bestwall	12	nil
West Lulworth	8	nil
Total	36	3

Public Sewerage System

1 Parish	2 Locality	3 No. of houses connected to Sewer	4 No. of houses within 100' which could be connected to Sewer	5 Total houses in Parish	6 % Col. 4 connected to sewer	7 % Col. 5 connected to sewer
Langton Mat.	Village	119	214	352	55.6%	33.8%
Wareham St. Martin -(	Sandford Bestwall	153 56	170 56	405	90.0%) 100 %)	51.6%
W. Lulworth	Village	144	150	210	92.9%	68.5%

Remarks:

The West Lulworth sewage, which is untreated, is discharged into the sea in the deep water to the west of Lulworth Cove.

Sandford sewage is treated by sedimentation, sludge drying and effluent filtration. The effluent is discharged into the River Piddle.

Bestwall sewage is discharged untreated into the adjoining Wareham Borough Sewer.

Langton Matravers sewage is discharged untreated into the Swanage Urban District Council's sewerage system.

Public Cleansing
Refuse Collection

A fortnightly collection service has been maintained throughout the year. In view of increased work the Council decided to purchase a new vehicle of greater capacity.

The refuse of the whole district is disposed of in a large disused gravel pit on an uninhabited heathland site. There has been no complaint of nuisance or rat infestation arising from the site.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Summary of Sanitary Inspectors' Work for the Year 1954

Total Number of Inspections and Visits

Complaints and Nuisances:

Investigated	128
Visits	137

Housing

Housing Acts

Number of houses inspected for defects ...	240
Visits for such purposes	247
Houses requiring repair	25
Houses overcrowded	10
Revisits	17

Public Health Acts

Number of houses inspected	176
Number of houses requiring repair	22
Visits	185

Drainage:

Inspection of cesspools, septic tanks, etc. ...	261
Drains reconstructed or repaired	5
Drains tested	115
Cesspool drainage connected to Sewer	6
Effluents sampled	Nil

Water Samples:

Visits	88
Samples	68

Registered and other Premises:

Moveable dwellings	20
Schools	18
Public premises (Cinemas, lavatories, etc. ...	42
Piggeries and stables	20
Factories	32

Infectious and Other Diseases:

Visits	35
Disinfections carried out	25
Bedding and clothing disinfected	2

Verminous Premises:

Inspections	21
Disinfections	25

Food:

Visits

Food premises - Stores, Shops, Stalls, etc. ...	192
Slaughterhouses, butchers shops	322
Bakehouses	36
Dairies and Milk shops	47

Food Sampling:

Milk samples	2
Ice cream	13

Diseases of Animals:

Number of visits	1

NOTICES:

Informal notices served	20
Informal notices complied with	13
Statutory notices served	2
Statutory notices complied with	3
Informal notices outstanding 31.12.54	7
Statutory notices outstanding 31.12.54	1

Abatement of Nuisances - Public Health Acts:

Informal notices served	18
Statutory notices served	1
Number of nuisances abated after (a) Informal action	19
(b) Statutory action	2
Number of Informal Notices outstanding 31.12.54 ...	4
Number of Statutory notices outstanding 31.12.54 ...	1

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The following is a copy of the Rodent Officer's report for the year ended 31st. December, 1954.

Inspections	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All others including Business Premises	Agricul-tural	Total
Properties inspected	2	340	28	132	502
Infested by rats	2	16	13	15	46
Infested by mice	-	28	3	-	31
Treated by Local Authority	2	29	10	D.A.E.C.	41

All rat infestations of a minor character.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply:

The Order made by the Minister of Health under Section 45 of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950 specifying an area which included the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District, in which the use of special designation in relation to milk sold by retail becomes obligatory, came into force on 1st. March, 1954. All milk now sold by retail in the district is either "pasteurised", "tuberculin tested pasteurised" or "tuberculin tested".

Number of Milk Distributors on register 31.12.54 ...	18
Number of Dairy premises on Register 31.12.54	18
Number of visits to dairies during the year	47
Number of Notices served on Owners with respect to dairies	3
Number of notices complied with	3

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1949

The following licences granted by this Local Authority were in force at the end of the year -

Number of Dealers Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	11
Number of Dealers Licences for Pasteurised milk ...	15
Number of Supplementary Licences to sell Tuberculin T.milk	4
Number of Supplementary Licences to sell Pasteurised milk	7

In addition one Pasteurising establishment in the district is licensed by the Food and Drugs Authority.

Milk Sampling

The following are particulars of the 153 samples of milk taken in the district by the Food and Drugs Authority. Copies of the reports on all samples are sent to the District Medical Officer of Health.

Designation	No. of Samples	Result of Tests			
		Methylene Blue		Phosphatase	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	90	89	1	88	2
Pasteurised T.T.	35	35	-	35	-
Tuberculin tested	28	19	9		

Ice Cream

During the year there were 5 new registrations for the sale of ice cream under Section 14(2) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. This brings the total number of premises on the register to 66.

13 samples were taken during the year and submitted to the Methylene Blue Reductase test with the following results:-

Number of samples	Provisional Grade
9	1
3	2
1	3

Meat and Other Foods

Meat:

Prior to the de-rationing of meat in July 1954, Local Authorities were asked by the Ministry of Food to ensure that there would be available adequate and sufficient slaughtering facilities for the reception of home produced fatstock. As a result of this a meeting was arranged between members and officials of the Authority and representatives of the National Farmers Union and the local Meat Trade Association, the outcome of which resulted in the opening of 3 slaughterhouses considered capable of providing adequate and sufficient slaughtering facilities for the district.

They are -

(1) Parkstone and Bournemouth Slaughterhouse, Palmerston Road, Upton.
(2) J. W. Moss, West Street, Corfe Castle.
(3) T. E. Applin & Sons, 85 West Street, Bere Regis.

The following table gives the details of carcases inspected during the period July 4th. - December 31st. 1954.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
No. of animals killed	195	706	187	958	2910
No. of carcases inspected	195	706	187	958	2910
All diseases except Tb.					
Whole carcases condemned	-	1	4	1	-
Carcases of which some part was condemned	16	254	1	161	425
Percentage	8.2%	36.1%	2.67%	16.9%	14.6%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	-	5	-	-	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	106	-	-	25
Percentage	3.0%	15.7%	-	-	0.96%

Total weight of meat and offal condemned 4 tons 17 cwts. 2 qtrs. 16 lbs.

The table below gives particulars of other meat exposed for sale in butchers shops and which was condemned.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Inspected	1	1	7	10
Condemned	Part Forequarter	1 Carcase	1 carcase 1 head 3 plucks	3 prs. lungs.

Total weight of meat and offal condemned 1 cwt. 0 qtrs. 13 lbs.

Other Foods

The undermentioned food stuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and were condemned -

Meat Products

6 tins stewed steak	16 lbs.
4 tins pork luncheon meat	8 lbs.
1 tin boneless ham	15 lbs.
3 tins corned beef	2½ "
1 tin brawn	5 "

Milk and Milk Products

1 tin cream	4 ozs.
6 tins cream	1¾ lbs.
1 tin condensed milk	½ "

Tinned fruit

1 tin peaches	14 ozs.
1 tin pears	14 "

Tinned vegetables

3 large tin peas	3½ lbs.
6 small tin peas	3 "

Fish (fresh)

Rock Salmon	9 lbs.

Knackers Yard

There is one Knackers yard in the district.

Water Cress

Throughout the year routine inspections were made at the water-cress beds at Wool, Bere Regis and Waddock Cross, and conditions were found satisfactory.

Water samples were periodically taken from the beds and all gave satisfactory analyses.

Preserved Food Premises

The total number of premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of preserved foods at the end of the year was nine.

Food Premises

(1) Number of Food Premises by type of business in the area.

Grocery & general provisions	58	Green grocers ...	3
Sweets - confectioners ...	8	Bakehouses ...	7
Fried fish shops ...	5	Butchers shop ...	7
Hotels and public houses ...	31	Slaughterhouses...	3
Cafes and Restaurants ...	28		

(2) Number of Food Premises by type registered

(a) Under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act

Manufacture of sausages etc.	4
Fish frying	5
Sale of ice cream ...	66

(b) Under Milk and Dairies Regulations

Dairy premises ...	18

(3) Number of inspections of registered Food Premises

Premises for manufacture of sausages ...	14
Fish frying premises	15
Ice cream	28
Dairy	47

HOUSING

The past year has shown that the provisions of Section 20 of the Housing Act 1949, have become more widely known, and applications have increased very considerably. In April 1954, (Circular 36/54) the Ministry abolished the necessity of submitting individual schemes to Regional Headquarters for their approval and delegated to local authorities the entire responsibility of administering that section of the Act. This has had the effect of reducing the time lag of submission of the application to receipt of approval from as much as 4 months down to 1 month. At the same time the Ministry slightly relaxed the conditions applicable to the grant and this has had the advantage of permitting a certain flexibility without reducing the final standard of conditions.

From data submitted later in this report it can be seen that approximately 27% of the houses surveyed require reconditioning, etc., while the majority of the other quoted 19% do not enjoy modern amenities and it can be seen therefore that almost up to 45% of the cottages in this district could be made into decent housing accommodation for some period of time by the implementation of the Improvement grant scheme. However, the table appended later indicates that a quite positive step has been taken in the preservation and improvement of the cottages in this district

The Rural Housing Survey was continued during the year and a total of 3523 houses have been surveyed. Of this 1075 or approximately 30% are completely fit in all respects, 492 or 14% with minor defects, 666 or 19% having major defects, 945 or 27% houses require structural alterations and general reconditioning and 345 or 10% have been scheduled for demolition or beyond repair at a reasonable expense.

Six demolition orders were made during the year and undertakings not to use for human habitation until rendered fit were occupied in respect of 2 dwellings.

The number of houses completed under the Council's Housing programme was 60, and the number of applicants on the waiting list for Council houses is now 427 compared with 532 at the end of 1953.

Houses requisitioned by Local Authority

Number of houses held under requisition at 31.12.54 ...	12
Number of families accommodated therein	13
Number of houses derequisitioned during 1954 ...	5

Housing Inspection

1. Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year

i (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under both Public Health & Housing Acts) ...	416
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	438
ii (a)	Number of dwelling houses(included under sub-heading(i) above which were inspected and recorded under the housing Consolidation Regulations 1925-1932 ...	9
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	11
iii	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous as to be prejudicial to health and unfit for habitation. ...	25
iv	Number of dwelling houses(exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. ...	47

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority	22

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Section 9,10 & 16, Housing Acts, 1936

i	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects defects to be remedied	4
ii	Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of formal notice (a) by owners	4
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts

i	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
ii	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice	
	(a) by owners	4
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936

i	(a) Demolition Orders made	6
	(b) Undertakings not to use for human habitation until rendered fit accepted	2
ii	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition orders	1

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

i	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	Nil
ii	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1949. Section 20.

Number of enquiries received during 1954	44
Number of applications approved during 1953 but completed in 1954	4
Number of separate dwellings provided	6
Number of applications submitted during 1954	31
Number of dwellings concerned	41
Number of applications approved	30
Number of dwellings concerned	40
Number of applications withdrawn	Nil
Number of applications refused	1
Number of dwellings concerned	1
Number of schemes completed during 1954	7
Number of dwellings concerned	10
Number of schemes under construction at 31.12.54 ...	10
Number of dwellings concerned	11
Number of applications under consideration at 31.12.54	13
Number of dwelling concerned	15
Number of applications approved but not yet started ...	13
Number of dwellings concerned	19

5. New Houses

Total number of new houses erected during 1954 -	
(a) Permanent	117
(b) Prefabricated	nil
(c) Temporary	1
Number erected during 1954 with State assistance -	
(a) by Local Authority (i) Permanent	60
(ii) Prefabricated ...	nil
(b) by other Bodies or Persons	3
Number of permanent houses erected by private enterprise ...	53
Number of temporary dwellings erected	1

6. Number of permanent houses owned by Local Authority ... 802

Housing Survey Summary

Number of houses recorded and inspected (total at end of 1954) ... 3523

Category (1) Number of houses completely fit for habitation ... 1075
(2) Number of houses with minor defects only 492
(3) Number of houses requiring structural alteration ... 666
(4) Number of houses requiring reconditioning 945
(5) Number of houses requiring demolition & replacement... 345

Control of Moveable Dwellings

During the year the Council approved, under section 269, Public Health Act, 1936, the issue of 7 licences to station individual moveable dwellings and no licences to use sites for moveable dwellings.

Licences in force at 31.12.54 -

(1) Sites 26
(2) Individual caravans 64

Included in the licences to station individual caravans are two licences granted for sites upon which the licencee intends building a permanent dwelling.

LOCAL AUTHORITY'S HOUSING PROGRAMME

Parish	Houses completed 1954	In course of construction 31.12.54	Total houses owned 31.12.54	Proposed houses 1955	No.of applicants on housing list 31.12.54
Affpuddle	-	-	-	6	10
Arne	-	-	46	-	23
Bere Regis	-	-	74	-	18
Bloxworth	-	-	8	-	4
Chaldon Herring	-	-	8	-	-
Church Knowle	-	-	6	-	-
Coombe Keynes	-	-	6	-	-
Corfe Castle	-	-	56	-	22
East Holme	-	-	-	-	-
East Lulworth	-	-	6	-	1
East Stoke	-	-	10	-	3
Kimmeridge	-	-	-	-	-
Langton Matravers	-	-	42	-	15
Lytchett Matravers	12	2	82	-	23
Lytchett Minster	14	14	114(6)	4	73
Morden	-	-	22	-	6
Moreton	-	-	-	6	13
Steeple	-	-	4	-	-
Studland	-	-	42	-	12
Turners Puddle	-	-	-	-	-
Tyneham	Military Training Area				
Wareham St. Martin	6	-	94(50)	-	77
West Lulworth	8	-	20	-	10
Winfrith	-	-	30	-	9
Wool)	-	-	54	6	30(Wool)
-do- (Bovington))	20	12	128	-	74(Bov.)
Worth Matravers	-	-	6	-	4
Total	60	28	858(56)	22	427

Figures in brackets () indicate temporary prefabricated bungalows included in totals.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There was no serious outbreak of infectious disease in the district during the year. No case of acute poliomyelitis was notified and no deaths occurred from notifiable disease apart from 6 due to pneumonia, one due to pulmonary tuberculosis and one due to non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

Scarlet Fever

Fourteen cases were notified, being one more than in 1953. Only one case was admitted to infectious diseases hospital.

Measles

Following an epidemic in 1953, when 441 cases were notified only 15 cases were notified. None were admitted to hospital.

Whooping cough

93 cases were notified compared with 81 for the previous year. The disease appeared to be relatively mild and no cases were admitted to hospital.

Dysentery

10 of the cases notified were due to S. Sonnei and one case was amoebic dysentery contracted abroad. Of the cases of Sonnei dysentery seven occurred in one family and the remaining three were isolated cases in other parts of the district.

Food Poisoning

There were two small outbreaks, one of seven cases and the other of four cases.

(a) Seven cases occurred in two families living in adjoining cottages. The agent causing the outbreak was Sal. typhi murium, which was isolated from the faeces of cases and from one of two duck eggs from ducks owned by one of the families. Samples of water, milk, and rat faeces were negative. The illness was of moderate severity and lasted six to seven days.

(b) Four cases of suspected food poisoning were notified in which diarrhoea and vomitting followed 12 hours after eating picnic lunch of tinned tongue and meat pies. The illness which was mild lasted 24 hours. Examination of faeces was negative. From the remains of the tinned tongue Staph. aureus was isolated, but this was of doubtful significance. Meat pies were not available for examination. The tinned tongue, brand unknown, had been in store for some time and had been opened 3 days before being eaten.

The agent causing the outbreak was probably a pre formed toxin the origin of which was not ascertained.

Notifications (Corrected) Figures

Disease	1st. Qtr.	2nd. Qtr.	3rd. Qtr.	4th. Qtr.	Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	7	3	2	2	14	1	-
Whooping cough	21	34	38	-	93	-	-
Measles	6	3	2	4	15	-	-
Acute pneumonia	6	4	3	3	16	2	6
Dysentery	-	8	3	-	11	2	-
Erysipelas	1	1	2	-	4	1	-
Food Poisoning	-	7	4	-	11	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	1	1	-	2	-	-
Tuberculosis - pulmonary	4	3	1	1	9	5	1
non- pulmonary	3	1	-	1	5	2	1

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified During 1954.

Disease	Total all ages	Age Groups							
		Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 Ov.	A.U.
Scarlet Fever	14	-	3	1	7	3	-	-	-
Whooping cough	93	3	13	16	52	3	2	4	-
Measles	15	-	3	2	7	1	-	2	-
		Under 5		5- 14		15 -44	45 - 64	65 Ov.	A.U.
Acute Pneumonia	16	1		4		2	5	4	-
Dysentery	11	-		5		4	1	-	1
Erysipelas	4	-		-		1	2	1	-
Food Poisoning	11	2		3		2	4	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	2	-		-		1	-	-	1
Tuberculosis- pulmonary	9	1		-		6	2	-	-
non- pulmonary	5	1		3		1	-	-	-

Scabies and Verminous Conditions

There were no cases of scabies or verminous conditions reported during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47. Removal of Persons in Need of Care and Attention to Suitable Premises

It has not been necessary to take any action under this section of the Act during the year.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for the Purposes of Provisions as to Health (including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		In-spections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	22	19	3	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	34	41	6	-
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority(excluding Outworkers premises	21	34	1	-
Total	77	94	10	-

2.

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				No.of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Re-medied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1)	8	8	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation(S4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors(S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	10	10	-	1	-

OUTWORK

Sections 110 and 111

Nature of Work	No. of Out-workers in August List reqd.by Sec. 110(1)(e)	No. of cases of default in sending Lists to Council	No.of Pro-secutions for failure to supply Lists.	No.of instances of work in unwholesome premises	No-tices served	Pro-secu-tions
Wearing apparel (making etc. cleaning and washing)	80	-	-	-	-	